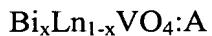


Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] More particularly, the invention provides a novel red phosphor composition as well as its combination with a light emitting semiconductor device (e.g., VCSEL, LED, or LD), preferably a GaN based device, that emits light having a wavelength in the range of 200 nm to 620 nm[[],]. The composition can contain at least one non-red phosphor in addition to the red phosphor, preferably along with green and blue phosphors (such as the $ZnS : (Cu^+, Al^{3+})$ and $BaMgAl_{10}O_{17} : Eu^{2+}$ phosphors described above). The red phosphor absorbs the light of a wavelength in the range of 240 nm to 550 nm and emits red light at a wavelength in the range of 580 nm to 700 nm, and is a vanadate combined with yttrium, gadolinium and/or lanthanum and activated with trivalent Eu^{3+} , Sm^{3+} and Pr^{3+} , or any combination thereof, with or without Tb^{3+} as a co-dopant. When combined with a light emitting semiconductor device, the red phosphor composition of this invention has the general formula:



where $x = 0$ to 1 , Ln is an element selected from the group consisting of Y , La and Gd , and A is an activator selected from Eu^{3+} , Sm^{3+} and Pr^{3+} , or any combination thereof, with or without Tb^{3+} as a co-dopant. Novel red phosphor compositions are provided when x is greater than 0 and less than 1 , preferably 0.05 to 0.5 .